

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim..

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview with the Examiner in which claim 1 and applied reference JP 06-225,573 (“JP ‘573”) were discussed. In accordance with the discussion, Applicants’ have amended claim 1 so that it recites that a “motor current limit value” that is an integrated value of a predetermined function of a phase current of the motor is provided, and that a “target value of phase current” is limited in accordance with the motor current limit value.

This amendment is fully supported by the original specification at least in the non-limiting embodiments shown in Figs. 1, 7, and 8, as well as the discussion thereof in the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by JP ‘573. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over JP ‘573 in view of Okano (US 5,777,447).

With respect to amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection at least because JP ‘573 does not teach or suggest all of the claim recitations. For example, JP ‘573 does not teach or suggest the claimed motor current device having a micro-controller that limits a motor current by providing a “motor current limit

value” that is an integrated value of a predetermined function of a phase current of the motor is provided, and limiting a “target value of phase current” in accordance with the motor current limit value.

It appears to be the Examiner’s position that the integrated value provided in proportion-plus integral control means 6c of Fig. 4 in JP ‘573 includes *inter alia* the exciting-current detection value IOFB and the exciting current command IOS, and that the integrated value provided in proportion plus integral control means 6a of Fig. 4 includes *inter alia* the torque-current detection value ITFB and the torque-current command ITS.

However, even assuming *arguendo* that the integrated functions of current command values and current detection values correspond to the claimed “motor current limit value”, JP ‘573 does not have a “target value of phase current” that is limited in accordance with the motor current limit value. Instead, the exciting and torque current commands IOS, ITS (target value of phase current) are *already included in the calculation of the integrated functions* (motor current limit value).

Therefore, JP ‘573’s current commands (target value of the phase current) are not limited in accordance with the integrated functions (motor current limit value). Consequently, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 2-16 at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 17-20 at least because of their dependency from claim 1 and because Okano does not cure

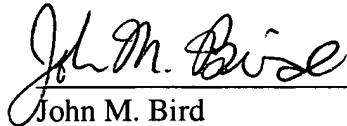
the deficiencies in Okano discussed above. For example, even assuming *arguendo* that Okano limits a target value of phase current, this would not make up for the deficiencies in JP '573 because JP '573 appears to show current commands IOS, ITS (target current) that are included in the integrated value. There is no suggestion to modify JP '573 so that current commands IOS, ITS (target values) are not included in the integrated value, but are instead limited in accordance with the integrated values.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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